OFFICIAL BEE GEES FAN CLUB

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In 1960, when the average age of THE BEE GEES was just ten years, the group starred in its own weekly 30-minute TV series screened from Brisbane, Australia.

But by the time they landed that particular contract THE BEE GEES had already put behind them at least three years of experience and achievement! They began in 1956 as a three-man amateur group in their Manchester hometown. Their first public appearance was at a local Gaumont Theatre where they entertained a Saturday morning audience of youngsters their own age with their vocal act.

Until their return to Britain THE BEE GEES continued as a trio – twins ROBIN and MAURICE GIBB plus their brother BARRY GIBB, who is two years their senior. In February '67 soon after their arrival in London, COLIN PETERSEN, an Australian drummer joined them and in May they augmented the group yet again by the addition of VINCE MELOUNEY (also Australian). Polydor Records released the group's first U.K. single "Spicks and Specks" in February and on the same day Robert Stigwood, Joint Managing Director of NEMS, signed THE BEE GEES to a five-year management contract.

The Gibb family left Manchester in 1958, emigrating to Australia. And it was during the following eight years in Brisbane and Sydney that THE BEE GEES built themselves into a headline-making group, winning a remarkable succession of trophies, awards and Number One record hits to become one of Australia's top pop units.

Within months of the Gibb family's arrival in Down-Under territory THE BEE GEES had notched up their first radio broadcast – on Brisbane's Station 4KQ in a show called "Talent Quest". In March 1960 came their TV debut via Brisbane's ABC channel and before the year was out THE BEE GEES had been given their own series of regular weekly programmes.

"We started our recording career a little late" observes Barry, tongue planted somewhere in his youthful cheek. In fact Barry was 14 years old and the twins were 12 when Festival Records released the first BEE GEES single in January 1963. The top-deck title was an original Gibb brothers composition called "Three Kisses Of Love". They made Top 20 impact with this and an impressive string of further self-penned singles including "Timber" (1963), "Peace Of Mind" and "Claustrophobia" (1964).

Then in 1965 and 1966 came a hat-trick series of chart-smashers which took them to the pop peak. They were number one with "Wine and Women", "I Was A Lover And A Leader Of Men" and "Spicks and Specks". What's more these best-selling records helped THE BEE GEES to win awards for the best composition of the year (twice running in 1965 and 1966!) and they were handed the National 2UE award as Australia's best group of the year for 1966.

It is impossible to separate the song-writing and song-performing talents of THE BEE GEES. The three Gibb brothers have a magnificent flair for writing original lyrics and catchy, highly commercial tunes to back up those words. Their writing, singing and playing is not confined to any specialist style.

Says Robin: "We write about everything and anything. Day-to-day events, personal experience, something we've heard on the news or read about in the papers. Sometimes we write a song based on our own thoughts. We used to write individually but today each new number is a collaboration job – a Bee Gees composition with all of us adding something to the finished effort. How many songs have we written? I'm being quite serious when I say it must be something around a hundred."

Adds Maurice: "Obviously new songs don't just come out of the air. They take time. So composing has to be an occupation and a hobby. What free time we get is used up working on new material but that's the way we like it. We don't think of song-writing as a task, a job of work. It's good fun. It's all worthwhile when a song gets to its final stage – when it's there on a demonstration disc so that we can all listen to it and decide about a recording arrangement."

And Barry puts in the point that THE BEE GEES don't intend to restrict their writing to material intended for the group's own use: "So far everything we've done has been with a BEE GEES record in mind, I suppose, but now, since we got back home to Britain, we're looking for a wider market. Already a lot of other acts – important solo artists and groups – have recorded our material".

The BEE GEES quit Australia to return to Britain early in February 1967. When they left Sydney "Spicks And Specks" was still riding high at Number One on Australia's national charts.

Of their signing with NEMS on Friday February 24 1967, Robert Stigwood said: "THE BEE GEES put on one of the most exciting stage shows I've ever seen. They have a tremendous versatility, an unbelievable professionalism. It's impossible to overstate their international potential both as performers and composers."

THE BEE GEES made their first U.K. stage appearance of 1967 when they joined Fats Domino and Gerry And The Pacemakers for a special week-long Easter holiday presentation at the Saville Theatre in London's West End.

The release of "New York Mining Disaster 1941" in April really put The Bee Gees "on the map" not only in Britain but also in The States where it leap-frogged up the charts. In Holland it was in the top 10 at the same time as "Spicks And Specks", and bound into the charts in many other countries.

Then came the release of "To Love Somebody", a fantastic 14-day trip to the States, four days in Sweden plus another three in Germany – everyone wants The Bee Gees.

"Bee Gees First" is the title of their first album simultaneously released in Britain and America on 28 July 1967 which has 14 Gibb brother songs on it. A second album is on its way. "Massachusetts" is riding high and looks like being another round-the-world hit. (1)

The future looks good 'n lively for our fivesome with the prospect of overseas tours, films, TV programmes and the unending flow of super songs.

world, words, Jumbo, I've gotta get a message to you (1)
First of May, Tomorrow Tomorrow,
Don't forget to remember, IO, IO, Lonely days,
How can you mend a broken heart, My world.

BARRY GIBB was born on I September 1947 in Douglas, Isle of Man. Hair: brown. Eyes: brown. Height: 6 ft. I in. Weight: 12 st. 2 lbs. Likes hiking, swimming, racing, cars and TV comedies. Thinks humourless people are a drag. Would like to take a leisurely round-the-world trip. Admires Shirley Maclaine, Jack Lemmon, The Beach Boys. Favourite food is steak and eggs.

ROBIN GIBB was born on 22 December 1949 in Douglas, Isle of Man. Hair: brown. Eyes: brown. Height: 5 ft. 9 ins. Weight: 9 st. 7 lbs. Likes singing, composing, choosing good clothes, hot baths. Hates insincerity in people. Would like to run a chain of hotels. Admires The Beatles, Tony Hancock, Charlie Drake. Favourite food is baked potatoes.

MAURICE GIBB was born on 22 December 1949 in Douglas, Isle of Man. Hair: brown. Eyes: brown. Height: 5 ft. 7 ins. Weight: 9 st. 8 lbs. Likes recording, photography, girls and filming. Doesn't like getting up in the morning. Hopes Bee Gees will become internationally famous (not much doubt about that!) Admires The Beatles, Peter O'Toole and Ann-Margret. Favourite food is bacon and chips.

COLIN PETERSEN was born on 24 March 1948 in Kinearoy, Queensland, Australia. Hair: fair. Eyes: brown. Height: 5 ft. 9 ins. Weight: 11st 1 lb. Likes motor sports, interior decorating, all forms of music and designing his own suits. Hates wet socks and burnt toast. Admires The Supremes, Tuesday Weld and Tom Courtney. Favourite food is steak and ice cream.
Drummer COLIN PETERSEN made his screen debut as "Smiley" in the film of that name when he was nine years old. Further movie appearances followed – two years later he was "The Scamp" and in 1960 he co-starred with Max Bygraves in "A Cry From The Streets". It was coincidence that Colin travelled to London around the same time as THE BEE GEES. They met up in London and, within a couple of weeks, Colin had agreed to become THE BEE GEES' drummer.

VINCE MELOUNEY was born on 18 August 1945 in Sydney, Australial Hair: brown. Eyes: blue. Height: 5 ft. 9 ins. Weight: 10st. 1 lb. Likes music, listening to classical music, buying clothes and feels lost without his guitar. Hates insincere people and not having enough time to rehearse. Admires The Beatles, Cream, Peter Sellers. Steak is his favourite food.
VINCE MELOUNEY, recognised as Australia's leading pop guitarist, was with Billy Thorpe and The Aztecs in Sydney. For a brief spell in 1966 he formed his own blues group. In the autumn he headed for London, and in February renewed a longstanding friendship with THE BEE GEES. He had worked with them on recording sessions in Sydney and then worked with the group in London during the production of their album "THE BEE GEES FIRST".